A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

Saturday, February 3. 1705.

I Insisted upon it in the last of these Papers, that there are other Trades less necessary, and which Export much more of our Bullion, than the *East-India* Trade; and that consequently, if those Trades ought to be first suppress't, which Export most, or are less necessary to the Nation, the stop ought to begin there.

And as it is always my way, and ever shall, to speak plain, I own my self to mean the Trade to *Norway*.

This is *the Trade* of all our Publick Negoce, which is driven with the most Disadvantage to us; and which is worse still, *with the least Reason for it.*

They neither take our Manufactures, nor Employ our Seamen, or Ships, things equally Disadvantageous and Dishonourable to a Nation so abounding in Shipping and Seamen as this, and that stands in need of Encreasing our Seamen, and Encouraging them.

I need not go about to Examine, how many *Danes* and *Swedes* Ships use our Ports for the Importation of their Goods, and how many Seamen they imploy; I need not repeat it, that they are generally very great Ships, from 200 to 500 Tuns burthen, and upward; and that consequently their Number being great, they must Employ, Breed up, and Encourage Multitudes of the Seamen; and I would put it upon the Objection, if there are any such, to tell us what they carry back from hence; and except Tobacco, Pewter, and a very very few Manufactures, what it is they are paid with for all the Goods they bring, and for the Fraight of the Vessels bringing, which is an Article, near as large as the Value of their Loading, and in some Cases, the Fraight comes to more Money than the Goods.

If any Man will stand forth now, and make it out, That those Foreigners carry out of *England* above one tenth part of the Value of their Goods and Fraight *in our Goods*, I'll lay down this Cause, and acquit the *Norway* and *Baltick* Trades of being Injurious to this Nation.

But as it is, I cannot help saying, this is one of the Gulphs at which our Money runs out of the Nation; and yet, as it happens, that they bring no Silks nor Toys to annoy our Weavers, we have no Clamours against them at the Door of the House of Commons, no Petitions, no Bills to prevent either their bringing their Goods in, or their carrying our Money out.

I know it will be return'd upon me, we cannot be without the Deals, Timber, and Naval Stores, which we have from those Countries——

I would to God our Ministry, whose Eyes are acknowledg'd to be more open to the Nations Advantage, than their Immediate Predecessors,

ceſſors, would but ſpare themſelves leiſure to improve what, I am ſure, they know on this Head.

'Tis true, we have need of the Deals, Timber, and Naval Stores, which we now have from *Norway* and *Swedland*, but 'tis as true,

1. That we need not have them from thence but may be ſupplied of our own Growth.

2. We need not have them brought, as now they are, in Foreigners Ships, but may Employ our own Seamen, and our own Bottoms.

3. We need not pay one Farthing of ready Money for them, but may have them bought off from our own Ground, prepar'd by our own People, procur'd by our own Manufactures, and have them come with Infinite Circumſtances of Advantage, more and greater than can be imagin'd; and I am ſure ſo great, as that the Neglect of it can never be anſwer'd by thoſe, in the Power of whoſe Hand it is to ſet this vaſt Wheel of Trade a going.

In vain we Whine at the Loſs of our Trade, in vain we complain of the Encreaſe of our Poor, and want of Employment for our Hands, 500 Sail of Ships, 10000 Seamen, 100000 People Abroad, and 500000 at Home, would be taken up in the managing a Trade, *which waits for us at our own Doors*, which would keep our Money *at Home*, and carry our Manufactures *Abroad*; and we have neither Eyes to ſee, nor Hearts to underſtand our own Intereſt, and yet ſit ſtill, *like* Jupiter's *Carter*, and cry out for help.

It falls out to be neceſſary upon advancing things of this Conſequence, that the Affirmative ſhould be made out; but being ſtill too narrowly confin'd by my Title, I can only, with the ſame Aſſurance, as I did lately of the Seamen, *and which I have ſince had the Honour to make good*, ſay,

I pretend to be able, *without any great Merit for the Diſcovery*, to make it out, That all our Deals, Timber, and Naval Stores, and perhaps in time, Iron and Copper, Pitch, Tarr, and Roſin, the Trade being put into a Regulation by Authority, may be ſupplied from our own Colonies of *New England*, *Virginia*, and the Coaſts of the Continent between thoſe two.

Nor am I propoſing this as a New Invention, or ſeeking a Patent for the Contrivance; I pretend to know nothing in that but what has been known and ſaid before, by Men of better Judgment than my ſelf; but Inſuperable Difficulties lie againſt the Practice.

But now, if I can remove all theſe Difficulties in the Management, and preſcribe a Method, how this ſhall be done; then I claim this of the World, only to acknowledge, that this Blind Man has catch'd the Hare, which all the World has been hunting ſo long to no purpoſe: But of this, more in our next.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

THE laſt Marriage Caſe the Society ſpoke to, was an Unhappy Husband, in whoſe Caſe they were very free with him; and as they purpoſe to do in all Caſes which come before them, they endeavoured to anſwer him as the Truth of the Caſe requires, Whether it ſuited his Deſign, or no——They are now to preſent the World with an Unhappy Wife, as a Demonſtration, that *there are Brutes of both Sexes*; and tho' they are unable to give relief in either of theſe Deplorables of Humane Misfortune, yet they cannot but make it Publick, as a *Memento Mori* to all thoſe that venture *Sans Ceremonie de Conſideration*, upon the Irrevocable State of Matrimony.

Gentlemen,

AFter having been Married a Year, my Spouſe, under the Suppoſition of my having Money, tho' I honeſtly and plainly told before I had him, I had none; And that I could by no means conſent to Matrimony, if he ſuppos'd or believ'd I had any; but aſſur'd him, If he would except of me for a Wife, he muſt take me as I then appear'd; for I could not depoſite any other Portion than the Duties of Love and Obedience, and on thoſe Terms he accepted; I thought my ſelf no bad Match neither. I knew him plentifully ſtock'd with Billingſgate *Rhetorick of B——ch and Wh——re, and full-mouth'd Oaths, but hop'd I might prevail upon him by Modeſt Perſwaſion, and Dutiful Deportment, to learn him better: But my hopes are vaniſht, and my Endeavours are altogether unſucceſsful.*

Nay,

Nay, he is arrived to that Pitch of Unnaturalness, Undecent Carriage, and Incurable Obstinacy towards me, that all I can say, or do, tho' with the greatest Sincerity and Submissive Affection possible, yet he is still worse and worse to me.

Gentlemen,

Were you sensible what a stock of Patience I have almost worn out and spent, you'd scarcely account it a Virtue in me to continue so my longer; I am compleatly miserable and fagg'd out, and know not which way to act, unless I desert him: To Maintain my self by an honest Servitude (having really no other Dependance) is what I would gladly accept of, and which I count, by many degrees, a Heavenly Life to that Slavish one I now live; yet even this Attempt, I know, will be attended with almost insuperable Difficulties.

My Husband is altogether incapable of receiving any Impressions from Sober Reasonings, which other Rational Creatures are bettered by: He governs himself purely by his own Absolute Arbitrary Will. I have often told him, the Life I now live with him, is altogether Intolerable and impossible to be continued, I can't bear it much longer. All the Answer and Relief I can get, is this Consummate and Malicious Resolve, That if I leave him, he'll Gazette me, Cry me down, &c. And if I still continue to bear my Burthen with him, it shall still be heightened in Malice, and made still more intolerable by Unkind Treatment; with much more and worse, than I can here relate. I ask him, Why I must thus suffer? "D—n ye, It is his Pleasure, "and he will still Plague me.

Gentlemen,

I desire the extraordinary Favour of your Advice, How I shall behave my self to my Husband; what Course I may and ought to take to defend my self from a Mon—r of Mankind, and still keep a good Conscience, and not be guilty of Breach of Duty. In doing which, you'll infinitely oblige a Distressed Woman, and very near Neighbour of Mr. Matthews *the Printer, and your Suppliant,*

Jan. 27. 1704. *Mrs.* Miserable.

P. S.

I Had a handsome Education as most Citizens Daughters had, was a Widow when my present Husband Married me, am now 32 Years of Age; but one Happiness I enjoy, I have no Offspring by this Husband, nor had any Child Alive when he Married me.

The reading of this Sensible Epistle, affected the whole Society; and as it was some while before they recovered themselves, the Silence was broke with this Melancholy Conclusion,

No Beast so Brutal, as a Man Depray'd.

As to Observation and Advice, the Society Examining into the Circumstances, came to sundry Resolutions.

1. You may see, Madam, how vain the weak Things, call'd the Charms of your Sex, are; and how much to blame you were, to depend upon them, for Engaging a Man, who, it seems, you knew before, to be most plentifully stock'd with Ill Manners, Foul Language, &c.

2. As you knew this before, they can go no farther for a Reason of all your Misfortunes, than your own want of Caution, and a most absolutely necessary Care, which we recommend to all your Sex, never to Matry an Ill Husband, in hopes of reducing him by Goodness and Submission, especially when they know him to be such beforehand; and if they do, never to expect to be pitied by us.

As to Direction, Madam, the first and Capital Advice they can give you, is Patience; in the practice of which Vertue, the Sence of your not deserving such Treatment, will be a special Support, and the Reflection on your having some Reasons beforehand to expect it, will move you to the Exercise.

But your pressing them to Advise you what Course to take in Deserting him, they are sorry for; and 'tis with some Difficulty they consent to Counsel you in that Case; and tho', at the same time, not agreeing that it is Lawful for you to leave him, unless he consents or forces you from him: They therefore say further.

If you are resolv'd to precipitate your self, they Advise you to needful Cautions and Considerations.

There's no Enduring of this, said the Fish, when they were put Alive into the Frying-Pan, *and away they all Jump'd into the Fire.*

A Woman's Case can hardly be so bad with a Husband, but it will be worse with her to leave him; the Law gives him great Advantages, and Custom Loads her with Numberless Difficulties; and amongst the rest, her Reputation is apteſt to be Scandaliz'd and Reproach'd.

But if after all, Madam, you will leap out of this Intolerable Case into a worse, then they Advise you,

1. Plain-

1. Place double Guards upon your Reputation, and fix your self, if possible, in such Families, under such Conduct, and amongst such People, whose Unspotted Character may skreen you from Scandal; always taking care to be able to give a punctual, and well attested Account of your Hours and Minutes.

2. Anticipate his Publications, and declare in Print, That nothing but Unmanly, Unchristian, and Intolerable Usage, has forc'd you to take Shelter with your Friends, and absent your self from your Husband; and that you declare your self ready and willing to return to him, whenever he shall think fit to make his Carriage but commonly tolerable; and that, in the mean time, as you look upon it as your Affliction, that he will not suffer you to Discharge your Duty as a Wife, you earnestly Invite him to put on the Reason and Justice of a Husband; and till it shall please God to restore him to you, in his Senses, and in the Temper of a *Christian*, you resolve to live by your self; as to the rest, you profess nôt to bring him into Debt, but to do your best Endeavour, to live without being a Charge to him; but that if you cannot, you shall only desire what is reasonable of him, and in such Legal Method, as the Laws of *English* Women will oblige him to.

If after this Publication, he should pretend to Print any thing on you, he will stink in the Nostrils of all Men of Sence and Manners; and there cannot be an Author of any News Paper, so much a Friend to Oppression, but what would refuse the Advertisement, if it should be offer'd.

WHereas a Gentleman sent a Letter to the Society, signed *B. F.* containing some Reflections on a Scandalous Action of one of the Authors of our News Papers———The Author frankly offers the Gentleman to Publish the Case, if he will please to give some reasonable Assurance, that the Fact is true; or let him know his Name, and how to refer to him for his Justification.

THE Gentleman, whose Letter was mark'd *A. C.* shall have an Answer left at Mr. *Matthews* for him, the beginning of next Week.

THE Gentleman who sent a Letter, sign'd *A. B. F.* about a Gentleman who was Drown'd on the Coast of *Ireland*, shall also have an Answer left for him at Mr. *Matthews*, next Week.

THE Gentlemen of St. *Dunstan's* Feast, who sent a Letter to the Society, some time since, are desir'd to take notice, That an Answer will be given them in the next *Supplement*, which is now in the Press.

A Letter, sign'd *T. H.* having been mislaid; the Author is desir'd to send a Copy, and the Answer shall be left as desir'd.

ALso a Letter in *Latin*, sign'd *Sebem Darby*, being mislaid before it could come to the Author's Hands; the Gentleman, who sent the said Letter, is desir'd to Transmit a Copy of it, in order to have it given to the Author.

ADvertisements are taken in by *J. Matthew.* in *Pulkington-Court* in *Little-Britain.*

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